CLAIMS:

1.   Method of processing data which represent a sequence of pictures, previously encoded and decoded, comprising at least in series the steps of :

- detecting edge pixels within a picture,

- determining pixels to be filtered from among pixels which were not detected as edges in the previous step,

- replacing at least a pixel to be filtered with a pixel belonging to a close neighborhood of said pixel, said close neighborhood comprising said pixel and pixels adjacent to said pixel.

2.   A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the pixel to be filtered is replaced with the median pixel of a set having an odd number of pixels which were not detected as edges, the set comprising at least once said pixel and pixels adjacent to said pixel.

3.   A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein the method is applied to the luminance component of the pixels of said picture.

4.   A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if a magnitude representative of a gradient of the pixel is greater than a predetermined threshold.

5.   A method of processing data as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if the horizontal component of a gradient of said pixel is greater than the vertical component of said gradient and if the modulus of said gradient is greater than both the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent pixel on the left and the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent pixel on the right.

6.   A method of processing data as claimed in claim 4, wherein a pixel is detected as an edge pixel if the vertical component of a gradient of said pixel is greater than the horizontal component of said gradient and if the modulus of said gradient is greater than both

the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent lower pixel and the modulus of the gradient of the adjacent upper pixel.

7.   A method of processing data as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pixel is filtered

5   if the number of edges pixels in a defined neighborhood of the pixel lies within a defined

range.

8.   A filtering device for carrying out a method as claimed in claim 1.

10   9.   A storage medium comprising a software module for storing a set of

instructions executable under the control of a computer or a processor and provided for

performing at least some of the steps of the processing method as claimed in claim 1.